GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:175
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2001
DAMAGE TO CROPS DUE TO UNTIMELY RAINS
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to untimely rainfall during harvesting season of Rabi crops, foodgrains become wet and the farmers are forced to sell especially wheat, gram and mustard at throw away price;

(b) if so, the details of loss caused to the farmers by untimely rains in the Rabi season viz., April-May, 2001, State-wise;

(c) the details of financial assistance provided to the farmers by the Central Government to Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to pay compensation to these farmers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.175 DUE FOR REPLY ON 2ND AUGUST, 2001.

(a) to (f): The State Government of Haryana had informed that excessive rainfall andhailstorm during March-April 2001 had caused damage to various crops in the State and requested for special assistance amounting to Rs.607.33 crores from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).A Central inter-ministerial team was deputed to the State of Haryana on 18th − 19th May, 2001 to assess the situation. The situation as per the findings of the team was not such as would warrant provision of assistance from NCCF, which was possible only in case of calamity of `rare severity`. The main demand of the affected farmers was for payment of compensation, which was not admissible under the NCCF. Such a dispensation is available under the National Agricultural Insurance Schemein areas where it has been made applicable. No proposal for financial assistance was received from the State Government of Punjab and Rajasthan. However, requests were received from the State Governments for relaxation of prescribed specifications, as a result of adverse effect of unseasonal rainfall on wheat stocks during procurement operations and standing crops in advanced stage of maturity. Accordingly, the Government of India allowed procurement of wheat with luster lost grains up to a maximum extent of 50% in Punjab, and parts of Haryana with an instruction that the stocks with luster lost grains be disposed of on over riding priority keeping in view the poor storability of such stocks.

As per latest information available, a record quantity of 20.62 million tonnes of wheat has been procured so far during the rabi marketing season 2001-02 as against 16.27 million tonnes during corresponding period of last year. 3.30 lakh tonnes of mustard seeds has so far been procured during the rabi marketing year 2001-02 since the market prices came below the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) from April to third week of June.As the market prices of mustard seed increased beyond MSP during the third week of June, 2001, the procurement was suspended. There has been no procurement of gram since the market prices are ruling higher than the Minimum Support Price.